

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

DATE: March 6, 2007

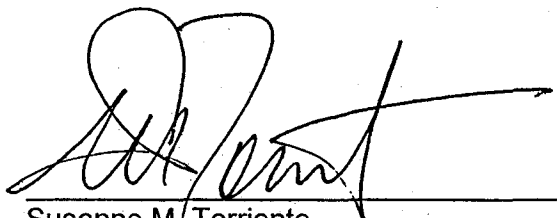
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 12(B)2

FROM: George M. Burgess
County Manager

SUBJECT: Halloween "Trick-No-Treat" Initiative – Operation Boogeyman

At the September 26, 2006, Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz proposed a resolution directing the County Manager to create and implement a Halloween initiative in conjunction with the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) to limit contact between children and sexual predators on Halloween. Pursuant to the resolution, the attached report prepared by Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) outlines the actions taken by MDPD in conjunction with DOC to implement "Operation Boogeyman," as well as detailing the results the joint task force.



Susanne M. Torriente
Chief of Staff/Assistant County Manager

Memorandum



Date: November 15, 2006

To: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Attn: Susanne M. Torriente
Assistant County Manager

From: Robert Parker, Director
Miami-Dade Police Department

Subject: "Trick No Treat" Halloween Initiative
After Action Report

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Parker", written over the "From:" line.

Pursuant to your request, the following actions were taken by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) in response to the Resolution proposed by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, "directing the County Manager to create and implement a Halloween initiative in conjunction with the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) to limit contact between children and sexual offenders and predators on Halloween."

The MDPD, in concert with the DOC, developed "Operation Boogeyman," a Halloween enforcement plan focused on providing a safe environment for children to trick-or-treat by closely monitoring identified sexual offenders and predators, who generally have a higher rate of recidivism. In regard to the specific items of the Resolution, the following actions were taken:

Section 1

- (a) *"Issuance of orders by the DOC to sexual offenders and predators, pursuant to the terms and conditions of their probation or community control, prohibiting them from participating in Halloween activities that involve children, including but not limited to, distributing candy to children, opening the doors of their residences to children, or attending a party where a child is present."*

Pursuant to each sexual offender or predator's Probation Plea Agreement "the defendant shall comply with any other rules, directives or conditions set out by the Probation Order, Probation Counselor, or therapist." Based on this mandate, DOC can modify conditions of probation by the issuance of verbal orders. According to DOC Circuit Administrator Ana Centeno, all sexual offenders and predators under DOC supervision were issued official orders prohibiting them from engaging in any type of Halloween activities including, but not limited to, decorating their residences, distributing candy, opening their doors to trick-or-treaters, having an outside light near a door on during designated trick-or-treat hours, trick-or-treating with or without a child, or attending a party where a child is present. These orders were issued prior to October 31, 2006, by DOC personnel and documented in the sexual offender and predator's DOC case file.

- (b) *"Issuance of orders by the DOC to certain sexual offenders and predators requiring them to remain at home during Trick-or-Treat hours designated by the DOC."*

According to DOC Circuit Administrator Ana Centeno, prior to October 31, 2006, all sexual offenders and predators under DOC supervision were issued official orders to remain at home during designated hours on October 31, 2006. DOC personnel documented this order in the sexual offender and predator's DOC case file. All DOC rehabilitative programs were suspended for October 31, 2006, to facilitate compliance.

- (c) *"Collaboration between MDPD and the DOC to ensure that sexual offenders and predators are notified of DOC orders."*

Pursuant to each sexual offender or predator's Probation Plea Agreement "the defendant shall comply with any other rules, directives or conditions set out by the Probation Order, Probation Counselor, or therapist." Based on this mandate, DOC (not law enforcement personnel) can modify conditions of probation by the issuance of verbal orders. DOC Circuit Administrator Ana Centeno advised that sexual offenders and predators under DOC supervision were issued orders pursuant to the Resolution. All orders were issued prior to October 31, 2006, and were documented in the sexual offender and predator's DOC case file.

- (d) *"Coordination of MDPD and DOC Officers to establish law enforcement teams: (i) to inspect the residences of sexual offenders and predators, (ii) to confirm compliance with DOC orders and registration requirements, and (iii) to make arrests when appropriate."*

On Tuesday, October 31, 2006, Halloween night, 40 teams, comprised of one MDPD and one DOC officer each, were deployed to the residences of 525 sexual offenders and predators under DOC supervision. The focus of the visit was to ensure compliance with the aforementioned orders. The detail, dubbed "Operation Boogeyman," commenced at 5:00 p.m., with a briefing for the dissemination of assignments, and ended at 1:00 a.m. All 525 sexual predators and offenders under supervision were found to be in compliance with the orders issued by DOC personnel; consequently, no arrests were made.

- (e) *"Notification to the general public through the news media, including Miami-Dade TV, of the Halloween Initiative, the FDLE Sex Offender Website, and Halloween safety tips."*

- Commencing October 16, 2006, a "Halloween Hotline" was established at the SCB to assist the public with questions and provide information regarding sexual offenders and predators. The hotline was operational Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m., to 4:00 p.m., and on Halloween night remained operational until 1:00 a.m. Citizens were encouraged to assist in this endeavor by being the additional eyes and ears of law enforcement by calling the hotline if they observed any sexual predator or offender in violation of the Miami-Dade County "Trick No Treat" Resolution. During the two-week period, the hotline fielded 35 calls, with the majority of callers inquiring about predators residing in their neighborhood.
- A press release was issued on October 30, 2006, reminding parents to be alert to the dangers that sexual predators may pose during Halloween activities and to be aware of who lives in their neighborhood. Parents were encouraged to take a few minutes before

their children went out trick-or-treating, and check one of the online sex offender registries. Citizens without computer access were urged to call our hotline for assistance and information.

- Halloween safety tips and links to the FDLE website to identify sexual offenders and predators residing in a specific neighborhood were added to the Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade Police Department's websites.
 - Photographs and descriptions of wanted sexual offenders and predators are broadcast on Miami-Dade TV. The broadcast, which airs six times daily, and features approximately 20 sexual offenders and predators, is updated weekly.
- (f) *"Creation of a joint task force between MDPD and the DOC to develop future collaborative law enforcement initiatives, including but not limited to an annual Halloween Initiative, to increase sexual offender and predator compliance with the law and DOC orders."*

The MDPD and DOC routinely collaborate in enforcement efforts throughout the year. Sexual offenders and predators sentenced to probation or community control, who violate the terms of their probation, will continue to be the focus of both the MDPD and DOC enforcement operations and will be arrested with a "zero tolerance" policy. MDPD also works with various municipal agencies as well as the FDLE and the FBI via the Law Enforcement Against Child Harm multi-jurisdictional task force. MDPD participates in cooperative efforts with these agencies, shares information, and provides support and assistance as needed.

Research suggests that pedophiles are less likely to re-offend when they believe they are being monitored. Accordingly, "Operation Boogeyman" was an overall success as demonstrated by total compliance. All 525 sexual predators and offenders under supervision were found to be in compliance with the orders issued by DOC personnel.

RP/cm